

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

LA UNIÓN DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

V.

STATE OF TEXAS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

HARRIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY, *et al.*,

Intervenor-Defendants.

[illegible]

Case No. 5:21-cv-00844-XR
[Lead Case]

LUPE PLAINTIFFS' COUNTER-DESIGNATIONS
TO STATE DEFENDANTS' DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS

Yvonne Ramon

April 21, 2022
Page 2

1	_____) (_____
2	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) (
	PLAINTIFF,) (
3) (CASE NO.
4	VS.) (5:21-cv-1085-XR
) (
5	THE STATE OF TEXAS, ET AL.,) (
	DEFENDANTS.) (
6	_____	_____	_____

7 -----

8 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

9 YVONNE RAMON

10 APRIL 21, 2022

11 -----

12 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF YVONNE

13 RAMON, produced as a witness at the instance of the

14 STATE DEFENDANT, and duly sworn, was taken in the

15 above-styled and numbered cause on April 21, 2022, from

16 10:06 a.m. to 4:26 p.m., before Maribel Hernandez, CSR

17 in and for the State of Texas, reported by machine

18 shorthand at the Offices of Texas Attorney General,

19 Child Support Division, Pharr Regional Office, 3508

20 North Jackson Road, Pharr, Texas, pursuant to the

21 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions

22 stated on the record or attached hereto.

1 A. I would hope so, yes.

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall, other than the documents
3 you just described, any specific documents?

4 A. Specifically, just what I mentioned, the -- the
5 specific e-mails and -- and webinar presentations.

6 Q. Okay. Let's go through a little bit of your
7 background for the benefit of the Court. What is your
8 current title?

9 A. I'm the elections administrator for the County
10 of Hidalgo.

11 Q. Okay. And where exactly is Hidalgo County
12 located?

13 A. Hidalgo County is in the southern most part of
14 the state of Texas. We are a large county, one of the
15 ten largest counties in the south most part of -- of
16 Texas. In fact, we're not right at the tip, but right
17 next to -- door to it.

18 Q. Okay. Border adjacent, right?

19 A. Border adjacent to Tamaulipas.

20 Q. Okay. And Reynosa is on the other side of the
21 border?

22 A. Reynosa is our border town.

23 Q. With regard to being the elections
24 administrator, are you an employee of Hidalgo County?

25 A. I am.

1 Q. Okay. Did Hidalgo County make any changes to
2 any of its voting operations on account of the pandemic?

3 A. We definitely did.

4 Q. Can you walk me through those?

5 A. Uh-huh. In regards to COVID and the safety
6 measures, we looked for locations that provided more
7 space. There are those areas with our small cities and
8 schools that don't have those locations, so -- have
9 those larger locations.

10 So we did contract and work with our
11 community. For example, we used the Bert Ogden arena,
12 and there were very, very helpful in training. And so
13 instead of training in small classrooms the way we were
14 used to doing, we actually were lent that huge arena for
15 training, so that was number one. And then on election
16 day, they also afforded that arena for voting.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And so that's what we were doing. We were
19 looking for locations, asking our local entities, school
20 districts and cities for changes in rooms, and so -- so
21 many of them did. They were able to afford us a
22 gymnasium instead of, you know, a small office. And so
23 we -- we worked very, very hard at trying to secure and
24 procure larger areas.

25 Q. For the benefit -- for the benefit of the

1 Court, Bert Ogden is a Ford dealership, right?

2 A. Bert Ogden is actually a huge arena in which

3 they have concerts, and, yes. You ought to drive by.

4 It's huge.

5 Q. I've seen a hockey game there before back when
6 you guys had the hockey team, but I -- I guess what I'm
7 trying to get across to the Court is, so Bert Ogden is a
8 car dealer --

9 A. Yes, they are.

10 Q. -- right? And so Bert Ogden also sponsors the
11 arena, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Are you aware that it's also called the Ford
14 center?

15 A. I was not aware.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know what kind of -- what kind of
17 events are hosted at that -- at the arena?

18 A. I know they have concerts, and as you
19 mentioned, I don't know if they have basketball anymore.
20 I don't know where the Vipers are, but it is a large
21 venue, so --

22 Q. Okay. They had the d-league, right?

23 A. The what?

24 Q. The d-league? The Vipers?

25 A. Yes.

1 A. No.

2 Q. And I want to ask that more globally. So
3 understand what I'm asking you, I don't want a cabinet
4 to the language I'm using, I want to make sure I'm not
5 missing some term of art that's used in Hidalgo County.

6 What I'm asking you is, have you ever been
7 asked to engage in any analysis of impacts on any
8 demographic group as it relates to voting in Hidalgo
9 County?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Do you understand what I'm saying by
12 that?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. Okay. How long have you lived in the Valley?

15 A. All my life.

16 Q. Okay. Would it be fair to say that there's a
17 large Hispanic community in the Valley?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And what would you estimate, if you're
20 able, the number of Hispanic residents in the Valley?

21 A. I'm not even --

22 MS. RAMIREZ Object to population.

23 MR. HUDSON: Okay.

24 MS. RAMIREZ: I mean, object to form.

25 Sorry.

1 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Would it be fair to say
2 that the Hispanic community is the majority population
3 in the Valley?

4 A. That would be fair.

5 Q. Okay. Have any voters requested that you allow
6 them to vote using drop box voting?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Has any voter in Hidalgo County, to your
9 knowledge, requested that they be able to vote using
10 drive-through voting?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about 24-hour voting?

13 A. No. Not to my knowledge.

14 Q. Had -- has there been any demand for any other
15 voting method by any voter that you're aware of?

16 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

17 A. Not that I'm aware of.

18 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you know who sets
19 the voting procedures for state elections?

20 A. The Secretary of State's office. The Elections
21 Division.

22 Q. And when you say they set the voting
23 procedures, what do you mean by that?

24 A. We receive guidance from the Secretary of
25 State's office, the Elections Division, who has a

1 director and a team of legal attorneys that we are able
2 to call and receive guidance from.

3 Q. Let me ask you this. Are you familiar with
4 early voting ballot boards?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who establishes early voting ballot boards in
7 Hidalgo County?

8 A. Uh-huh. The parties, every two years submit
9 lists to my department which are then taken to
10 Commissioners Court, and in a sense it creates a pool of
11 workers from which we draw.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And then from there, every election, they also
14 submit the early voting ballot board members and this is
15 for each election. Was that your question, again?

16 Q. That is my question.

17 A. So they submit the names, and depending on the
18 election -- and I don't have that chart in front of
19 me -- but it'll be either the county election board or
20 the Elections Commission Board if it's a primary
21 election versus a constitutional election, that the
22 form -- the list is submitted to and approved or
23 Commissioners Court. So it's three bodies that would
24 then accept their list.

25 Q. Okay.

1 Q. What is your -- well, what -- what does a
2 fiscal year look like for your office?

3 A. January 1st through 12/31.

4 Q. All right. So you do a calendar-year budget?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. What is your annualized budget for 2022?

7 A. For 2022, it's 1,900,000.

8 Q. Okay. How much of that is designated for voter
9 registration?

10 A. There is no designation. It's the cost of
11 administering and running the department that I'm able
12 to utilize.

13 Q. Okay. What portions of elections operations do
14 you -- does your office pay for using the budget that
15 you're allotted?

16 A. What do you mean? If you could clarify.

17 Q. Sure. So let me give you an example. In the
18 March 22 primaries, I understand that the political
19 parties are responsible for operating and paying for
20 their primaries; is that right?

21 A. Only election day.

22 Q. Okay. So to the extent that you're assisting
23 on early voting, for instance, in the primaries, how
24 much of your budget was devoted to paying for early
25 voting in March of '22?

1 A. So the question is how much did it cost me to
2 run early voting?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. I -- I don't have that number in front of me.

5 Q. Okay. Do you still have some money left in
6 your budget?

7 A. Do I have some? Very little, but yes.

8 Q. Okay. So it -- it -- it costs something less
9 than 1.9 million --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- to operate ear -- early voting?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. You're also going to be running May 7th
14 elections; is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Do you have enough money to operate that
17 election?

18 A. We do have enough money for that.

19 Q. How much is that costing you?

20 A. Again, I -- I don't have that in front of me.
21 We -- I will, because we do create a cost, but at this
22 point, there has been no time.

23 Q. Okay. You're also going to be operating a May
24 primary toward the end of May, right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Are you going to have enough money for that?

2 A. We will.

3 Q. Okay. What about the general election in 2022?

4 A. By then, we probably won't.

5 Q. Okay. So you anticipate using your

6 \$1.9 million budget by having to request additional

7 funding to operate the November '22 election; is that

8 right?

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 Q. Do you consider yourself underfunded as an

11 office?

12 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) You said you were allotted

15 \$1.9 million in 2022; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. Is that the same budget you were

18 allotted in '21?

19 A. No.

20 Q. How much did you receive in 2021?

21 A. A little over 900,000.

22 Q. All right. So your budget more than doubled

23 between 2021 and 2022; is that right?

24 A. Yes, because the elections doubled.

25 Q. Okay. And how much were you allotted in 2020?

1 A. I didn't look that far.

2 Q. Okay. So when you say the elections doubled,
3 what do you mean by that?

4 A. Well, in -- in even-numbered year, the
5 elections start -- the early birds vote don't starts as
6 early as February, while in an odd-numbered year, the
7 elections start in May. Well, actually the early voting
8 starts in the latter part of April and we have election
9 in May.

10 And then in an odd-numbered year, it's a
11 constitutional election in November, which is a low
12 voter turnout versus an even-numbered year, which is
13 either presidential or gubernatorial, which is a higher
14 voter turnout and therefore costs more.

15 Q. How much did you request in funding for the
16 2022 physical year?

17 A. I -- I -- I don't have that in front of me.
18 We --

19 Q. Was it more than 1.9 million?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. Was it more than 2.9 million?

22 A. Probably the needs are probably around two and
23 a half.

24 Q. And when you say the needs, can you describe
25 for the Court what the needs are in the 2022 election

1 cycle?

2 A. At the beginning -- well, actually the budget
3 cycles is in the summer prior to the need -- the budget
4 being awarded, and at that point, we are estimating the
5 cost of our different softwares, our programs, our
6 warranties or guarantees, our -- everything, and so we
7 were able to put this into the portal. And we have to
8 guesstimate because until that particular software comes
9 due and is renewed, we won't really know how much it
10 costs.

11 Q. When you say you put it in the portal, what do
12 you mean by that?

13 A. The budget office has a portal in which when
14 it's budget season, they ask each department to begin to
15 work at submitting their budget proposals.

16 Q. All right. Your budgets are public, I presume?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. You said you're on the Texas Association
19 of Elections Administrators Legislative Committee; is
20 that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. With regard to budgets, are there any other
23 county elections administrators that you've heard from
24 or about who have voiced concern about being
25 underfunded?

1 A. No.

2 Q. So every other elections administrator that you
3 know of has no budget problems?

4 A. I'm sure they do --

5 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

6 A. -- but it's -- it's not what we've discussed
7 during the legislative committee.

8 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) okay. Have you ever heard
9 outside of that committee any -- from any elections
10 administrators who suggested they feel that they are
11 underfunded for what they have to do?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How many?

14 A. I don't know how many. It's --

15 Q. Do you recall any particular elections
16 administrators who've shared that information with you?

17 A. Not any particular, but definitely we're --
18 we're dealing with unfunded mandates and that has put a
19 strain, additional strain.

20 Q. Let's go back to the Elections Administrators
21 Legislative Committee. Was the committee in operation
22 during the 87th regular session?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long was it in operation during the 87th
25 regular session?

1 Q. Okay. And for the record, when I refer to
2 Senate Bill 1, do you understand that I'm referring to
3 legislation offered and passed in the second special
4 session of the 87th legislative session?

5 A. I understand.

6 Q. So why hasn't TAEA taken a position, to your
7 knowledge, on SB 1?

8 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

9 A. Senate Bill 1 is quite vast, and so as an
10 organization and as Texas being 254 counties in which
11 each county is very unique and the needs are unique, we,
12 as an organization, try to take positions that would
13 benefit as much as possible the entire state and not
14 just individuals.

15 So because it's so vast, it's -- there are
16 various parts of the bill that they would go and speak
17 to, but not the entire bill because it's too great.

18 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) And so the record is clear, by
19 great you mean size wise?

20 A. Size wise.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. There is so much to it.

23 Q. Let me ask you, Yvonne Ramon, are there any
24 pieces of Senate Bill 1 that you like?

25 A. I have appreciated the opportunity given to the

1 several pieces because then the voter is instructed to
2 mail it back. And so there are four very important
3 pieces, color coded everything that has to do with this
4 mail ballot kit in a sense, which when that ballot is
5 coming back to the office, it's called the carrier
6 envelope.

7 Q. Okay. I forgot to ask this. Let me go back
8 before I keep going down the line here. TAEA, we have
9 254 counties in Texas. You would agree with that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are -- do each one of those counties have
12 elections administrators?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Are there any counties that have
15 elections administrators who are not members of TAEA?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Can you -- do you have any kind of
18 estimate of the number?

19 A. I'm no longer part of the board. I used to
20 keep up with that because I was a member of the board,
21 so I don't have that number right now. I know that it's
22 growing because of the need to support one another,
23 especially with these changes.

24 I think last time, and it's -- and it's
25 already been a few months, I think the number was like

1 137 members, so 137 counties, now keeping in mind that
2 not all of them have an EA. Some will have a county
3 clerk that runs elections. Some of them will have a --
4 a tax assessor that runs elections. Not all are the
5 same, and they are also members of TAEA.

6 Q. Is Dallas a member to your knowledge?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What about Houston?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Well, Harris County?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What about city of Houston?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. City of Dallas?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What about El Paso County?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. City of El Paso?

19 A. Not the city.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And I said -- you said city of Houston, no.

22 It's just the county.

23 Q. Okay. Just Harris County?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. What about Travis County?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Bexar County?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Hidalgo, obviously?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What about Cameron?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Willacy?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You don't have the entirety of the Valley in
11 the TAEA?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. What about Starr --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- Starr County? Starr County, surely, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. They have a new EA in Willacy, so we need to go
19 knocking.

20 Q. Remi doesn't live out there to help them?

21 A. Right. I need to tell him.

22 Q. Let's see. Did you provide any testimony to
23 the legislature concerning SB 1?

24 A. In person, no.

25 Q. What about in writing?

1 A. There was one letter that I signed as previous
2 president where all the board signed.

3 Q. Okay. But in, when you're talking about the
4 board, you're talking about the board of the TAEA?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Let's talk about a little bit about the
7 relationship between TAEA and the Texas Association of
8 Counties that you referenced earlier. Can you explain
9 to the Court what that relationship is?

10 A. It's a great relationship. Texas Association
11 of Counties also gives us support in part of the
12 legislative committee, helps in hosting any -- any
13 meetings that we would have, helps us -- we didn't get
14 to with COVID, but in prior years we would have a meet
15 and greet when the new legislative committee would be
16 named.

17 And they would be instrumental. They're
18 able to give us advice and they're there, so it's --
19 it's a very positive relationship.

20 Q. I believe you mentioned that the Texas
21 Association of Counties looks to TAEA for guidance on
22 elections matters; is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How does the TAEA convey information about
25 elections matters to the Texas Association of Counties?

1 A. The Texas Association of Counties hosts a
2 listserv for all elections officials, and through this
3 listserv of e-mails, they are able to ask for physical
4 note estimates on what a bill would cost down the line,
5 able to ask for -- or/and ask questions of us, and so
6 it's through this listserv that they, in fact, support.

7 Q. Are you familiar with anyone from TAEA
8 providing any guidance on what a bill would or would not
9 do on the listserv to the Texas Association of Counties?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. What about opinions about particular
12 bills with regard to information conveyed to the Texas
13 Association of Counties?

14 A. Yes. And -- and it would not just be to the
15 Texas Association of Counties, but on the listserv, not
16 everyone is a member. It's all elections administrators
17 have access to this.

18 Q. When you say all elections administrators --

19 A. 254 counties and their employees.

20 Q. Okay. Well, we talked earlier today though
21 that not just the counties have elections
22 administrators, right? Is that right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. So county clerks, district clerks.

1 Q. So county clerks, district --

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. -- clerks, city clerks?

4 A. No.

5 Q. No? Are there elections administrators for
6 things like water boards?

7 A. I'm not aware, but they're -- I'm not aware
8 that they would be able to sign up on this listserv.

9 Q. Okay. What about irrigation districts down
10 here in the valley?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Aside from signing a letter issued by TAEA
13 concerning the legislatures consideration of Senate Bill
14 1, or SB 1, did you provide any separate testimony?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Did you attend any of the hearings in
17 person?

18 A. Not in person.

19 Q. Did you watch any of the hearings on Senate
20 Bill 1 remotely?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Which ones?

23 A. First session, Senate Bill 7, Senate Bill 598,
24 Senate Bill 1111, and, of course, later on Senate Bill
25 1, and others that weren't election related because they

1 don't always go in a continuum of topics.

2 Q. Yes. Sometimes they're all over the map.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you remind me, what is Senate Bill 598?

5 A. That -- that requires and mandates that all 254
6 counties by November of 2026, be auditable in their
7 voting equipment, which means that it must have a paper
8 trail.

9 Q. Okay. You're going to make it?

10 A. We made it.

11 Q. Already?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Good. Congratulations.

14 A. Thank you.

15 Q. Let me ask you. Have you personally spoken
16 with any -- anyone, any elected officials in the Texas
17 legislature, House, Senate, like of anybody about Senate
18 Bill 1?

19 A. Bobby Guerra, our state rep.

20 Q. Okay. Anyone else?

21 A. No.

22 Q. When did you meet Mr. Guerra?

23 A. It was by phone.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And I -- I don't remember exactly when, but it

1 was in the summer.

2 Q. That was related to Senate Bill 1, right?

3 A. More related to Senate Bill 7 and -- and then,
4 of course, in conjunction with Senate Bill 1.

5 Q. Okay. So let me see if I can refresh you a
6 little bit. Session signed out was May 31. First
7 called special was June through July, and second, I
8 believe, was August through September. Does that sound
9 about right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. I'll represent to you that that's my
12 rough estimate of the timing of that. Does that
13 refresh -- does that trigger ring any bells about when
14 you might have talked to Mr. Guerra?

15 A. Not exactly, no.

16 Q. Okay. But you think it was sometime in the
17 summer?

18 A. I believe so.

19 Q. Okay. And so -- so we're clear on what the
20 summer is, what is the summer here in the Valley?

21 A. June, July and August.

22 Q. Okay. I know it always feels like the summer,
23 right?

24 A. 12 months out of the year.

25 Q. Okay. Aside from Representative Guerra, did

1 Q. And then prior to Senate Bill 1's passage, did
2 you speak with anyone at the Secretary of State's office
3 concerning Senate Bill 1?

4 A. I would have to say yes in regards to the fact
5 that I'm on the advisory committee.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So --

8 Q. With whom did you speak?

9 A. Christina Adkins is the head of legal, and
10 usually Mr. Keith Ingram is on the call, and they have
11 their other directors usually on the call as well. Not
12 everyone speaks. I perhaps wouldn't always speak
13 either, but we're on the call.

14 Q. Okay. When you say you're on the advisory
15 committee, can you describe to the Court what that
16 advisory committee is?

17 A. A few years back, and I was trying to remember
18 this morning when this advisory committee was formed,
19 but it's been at least two to three years, Mr. Ingram
20 and -- and Ms. Adkins asked 20, 22 county
21 representatives to be part of an advisory committee
22 where they could bounce ideas off of and help with any
23 forms, ideas. And so I was asked to be on the committee
24 and I said yes.

25 Q. Can you identify for the Court any other

1 members of the advisory committee?

2 A. Mr. Remi Garza next door, Ms. Jacque Callanen,
3 Chris Davis from Williamson County, Ms. Anderson from
4 Hays County. County clerk -- I can't remember her --
5 her name. We have several. She's one of the county
6 clerk representatives for legislation for county clerks.
7 I'll -- I'll remember her name in a minute. On this
8 side, Hyder -- Hyder from Tarrant County. Lisa Wise
9 from El Paso. Let's see. I think Dallas County
10 Scarpello is on as well. I can't recall any others.

11 Q. What's your understanding of why there's an
12 advisory committee?

13 A. I'm sorry?

14 Q. What is your understanding of why there's an
15 advisory committee with the Secretary of State's office?

16 A. Uh-huh. My understanding is that they wanted
17 our opinions on what was forthcoming, how things were
18 being handled, so it's -- it's a very safe and good
19 discussion type of committee.

20 Q. Did you watch any of the testimony or hearings
21 on Senate Bill 1?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Obviously, there were many hours of
24 testimony. Can you give me a ballpark of how much
25 you -- you might have watched?

1 of knowledge of who the voters are in their area, and --
2 and so they're hired to possibly help electioneer and
3 distribute materials, which are all legal in as far as
4 electioneering. That's the extent.

5 Q. Are you -- do you have any -- do you personally
6 know any politiqueras in Hidalgo County?

7 A. When I first came, they would visit me every
8 day. I don't remember their names because they don't
9 come visit me anymore.

10 Q. Why did politiqueras come visit you when you
11 first started?

12 A. Everyone wanted to see who I was.

13 Q. Why did they stop coming?

14 A. Because they got to know me.

15 Q. Fair enough. You're not aware of any
16 politiqueras being prosecuted in Hidalgo County by
17 federal authorities?

18 A. I do not.

19 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. What about in Cameron
21 County?

22 A. I am not.

23 Q. Okay. You're not aware of any published
24 articles concerning prosecutions of politiqueras across
25 the Valley in the early 2010s?

1 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

2 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

3 A. Yeah. No. I am not.

4 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Has anyone ever
5 expressed to you in your role as elections administrator
6 that they're concerned about fraud in Hidalgo County
7 elections?

8 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

9 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Who?

12 A. In -- was it 2016, I believe, and in 2020,
13 it -- it seemed to be an org -- organization of people
14 that were alleging that fraud was occurring, that people
15 were voting that shouldn't, that people were being
16 assisted that shouldn't, and I was aware of those calls.

17 In fact, I think we -- in 2016, there were
18 documents that were written. In 2020, I had voters call
19 that felt that they were being accused of voting
20 fraudulently when, in fact, they weren't. They were
21 being accused of not looking like a U.S. citizen.

22 No one ever wrote anything down. These
23 were calls that I received where they were being accused
24 of such. Pictures taken of people being driven to the
25 curbside voting inside the cars and of their licenses,

1 and so they were concerned because of what was being
2 said about them.

3 Q. Okay. When you said there was an organization
4 of people, is it a named organization?

5 A. No. It just seemed to be a group of people
6 that were at the poll locations. For example, they
7 weren't there in March, but they were there in 2020.

8 Q. Okay. Are you able to give me a ballpark of
9 how many people you believe were part of the
10 organizations?

11 A. I'm not.

12 Q. Okay. You would agree we don't want fraud in
13 Texas elections, right?

14 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

15 A. I'm sorry?

16 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) You would agree we don't want
17 fraud in Texas elections, right?

18 A. We don't.

19 Q. Okay. We want uniform elections?

20 A. Exactly.

21 MS. RAMIREZ Object to form.

22 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) And we want voters to
23 understand how to vote?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And we want to help people vote to the extent

1 that we can in free and fair elections, right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You're part of the TAEA still, right?

4 A. I am.

5 Q. Are you familiar with how the legislative
6 process works?

7 A. Enough.

8 Q. Okay. Do you have an opinion on whether
9 legislators have to have a certain amount of evidence
10 before they're allowed to legislate on something?

11 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

12 A. We wish.

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) It's not your position though,
14 or you don't contend that there's a certain level of
15 proof that has to be before a legislator before a
16 legislator can draft a bill, for instance?

17 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

18 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

19 A. That's true.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you think that
21 there's some level of proof that had to be provided
22 before Senate Bill 1 to be passed?

23 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

24 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

25 A. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

1 MR. HUDSON: Do you want to go off the
2 record for just a moment?

3 MS. PERALES: Sure.

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at
5 11:40 a.m.

6 (Break taken.)

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record at
8 11:55 a.m.

9 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. I'm going to hand you
10 what I'm going to mark as Defendant's 2, and I'll just
11 represent to you, or counsels in the room, I only have
12 three copies of this, but it's a copy of Senate Bill 1
13 that's publicly available on the Secretary of State's
14 website. It's the signed copy that I'll be going
15 through. If you want to take a look at that, let me
16 know when you're ready to discuss.

17 (Exhibit 2 marked.)

18 A. I -- I've seen it. I'm ready.

19 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) If you could flip over to the
20 back page for me. Do you see there where it's got
21 signatures?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. We see we've got the signature from president
24 of the Senate, speaker of the House, secretary of the
25 Senate, chief clerk of the House, and the governor. Do

1 law?

2 A. Yes.

3 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

4 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) And you're also required to
5 make sure that elections that you oversee comply with
6 state disability law?

7 A. Yes.

8 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

9 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) To the extent that -- well,
10 let me ask you this. Are you familiar with anyone ever
11 having requested what's referred to as a reasonable
12 accommodation?

13 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

14 A. I am not aware that someone has requested a
15 reasonable accomodation.

16 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you know what the
17 term reasonable accommodation means in the context of
18 disability rights?

19 A. I wouldn't be able to define it.

20 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. Let's suppose
21 someone with a disability came to your office and said
22 that one of your processes for voting was impossible for
23 them on account of a disability. Would you modify that
24 process for them so that they could vote?

25 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

1 one, but --

2 Q. Who did you talk to from the Secretary of
3 State's office who told you that?

4 A. I don't remember. It's been many years that
5 that request came to my office. I probably had been the
6 elections administrator for just a few years.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. It's been that long.

9 Q. Let me ask you this. If a blind voter came to
10 your office now and asked for a braille ballot, what
11 would you do?

12 A. We would --

13 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

14 A. -- not be able to provide one because Hidalgo
15 County does not have braille paper ballots.

16 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Well, would you do anything to
17 help that blind voter who asked for a braille ballot
18 vote?

19 A. We would provide accommodation. There are
20 always accommodations that are available to a person.

21 Q. The voter that you're referring to from several
22 years back, did you ultimately help that blind voter to
23 vote?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. So they were able to vote in Hidalgo

1 Senate Bill 1 recognized, right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Has it cost you more money to comply with
4 Section 3.09?

5 A. It -- it costs more money than a location or
6 county that would open 8:00 to 5:00, for example.

7 Q. Were you able to find the money to adhere to
8 the requirements of Senate Bill 1 with regard to the
9 hours in the March 22 primary?

10 A. Yes, because this is something our
11 Commissioners Court approved many years ago, and so
12 it's -- it's part of our budget process already.

13 Q. Okay. And so you should have enough money to
14 comply with that -- the Senate Bill 1 in the May 7
15 elections, right?

16 A. Yes. We should have money enough, but there is
17 a but, right? And I know --

18 Q. I'll just tell you, I'm not trying to get you
19 in hot with the Commissioners Court, but -- but this is
20 relevant to --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- to what I'm doing.

23 A. No. We -- we have a budget that is approved,
24 as I already mentioned the year before, and because
25 Senate Bill 1 was approved so late, and because the

1 forms were given to us so late, we had to pay all those
2 changes with this year's budget. So that's why we're
3 short and that I sound hesitant, because we started off
4 already spending money that was not previously approved.

5 Q. So it would have been helpful if you had, for
6 lack of a better phrase, a longer runway to implement
7 Senate Bill 1 than you were given?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And that's what's caused, for instance,
10 the funding issues?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You would anticipate though that as Senate Bill
13 1 continues to cover elections, that the budget issues
14 would be resolved?

15 A. We would be able to this year work better for
16 next year.

17 Q. Okay. And you'll also have voters who are --
18 are currently learning the law, would know it in the
19 future?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you would expect them to have a better
22 understanding of how voting processes work?

23 A. That is our hope.

24 Q. Have you ever implemented changes in voting
25 procedures prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Has it been your experience that voters take
3 time to learn the new processes?

4 A. Absolutely.

5 Q. In your experience, have voters been able to
6 learn the new processes?

7 A. Sooner or later they do.

8 Q. What kind of training does your office have in
9 place to train people on changes accompanying Senate
10 Bill 1?

11 A. First and foremost is with our poll workers,
12 that we -- for new poll workers, we have a six, seven
13 hour training that they have to attend, and as they
14 become -- and then we place them -- it is our hope, it
15 doesn't always happen, but our plan that is in place is
16 to place them under experienced workers so that they
17 also train on the job, which is the best way to learn.

18 And I start letting our Commissioners Court
19 know as soon as I know about what's coming, what could
20 happen, and so I try my best to do that. I know so many
21 people listen to Commissioners Court, and so I try to
22 put it out there in the universe so that people start to
23 ask questions.

24 And I try to let our Commissioners Court
25 know so that if someone asks them, they are better

1 prepared to respond. And, of course, I have a great
2 public relations person who works wonders with press
3 releases and -- and works with the media very well.

4 Q. Okay. Now, just so the -- the Court's aware,
5 the changes that came from 3.09, I think you briefly
6 discussed them, but let's talk about them.

7 A. 3.09?

8 Q. Yeah. You would agree that Senate Bill 1 now
9 requires early voting be available on each weekday of
10 the early voting period that's not a legal state
11 holiday, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Which means not just on weekdays?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. It also requires that early voting be open for
16 at least nine hours, right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And there was no previous memo before?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So, for instance, an elections administrator
21 before Senate Bill 1, could open up a poll place for,
22 say, two hours?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. That would be problematic?

25 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

1 A. I would imagine, unless their community was
2 used to that. I wouldn't be able to speculate.

3 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Senate Bill 1 also
4 limited the hours between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.,
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you ever started early voting before
8 6:00 a.m.?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Have you ever conducted early voting after
11 10:00 p.m.?

12 A. No. Well, only if that particular poll
13 location still has people in line, and every voter who
14 was in line by 7:00 p.m., which is now in Senate Bill 1,
15 too, by the way, but it was already part of the
16 recommendation from the Secretary of State that -- so we
17 even put a marker with the last person so that they are
18 able to vote because they were in line at 7:00.

19 Q. Okay. Have you ever actually seen that happen
20 that a person got in line at, say, 6:59 and was still
21 there after 10:00 p.m.?

22 A. After 10:00 p.m., I -- I can't remember the
23 election, but it -- I've seen it once. It was very,
24 very late. People choose certain poll locations that
25 have a higher voter turnout than others. So we'll have

1 one that maybe has 10,000 voters and another that maybe
2 has 30, and so we -- we try our best to have people
3 understand that there are other locations, but sometimes
4 they prefer to pick their own.

5 Q. Gotcha. Do you know if that situation occurred
6 before 2020?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did it occur before 2020?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I'm trying to remember the election.

12 Q. In your opinion, does having uniform hours make
13 early voting easier?

14 A. That's why we do it.

15 Q. Does it make early voting more accessible to
16 voters?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Let me get you to turn to Page 18, Senate Bill
19 1. This is Defendant's -- State Defendant's 2. Take a
20 look at Section 3.10 and tell me what your understanding
21 of the change is with regard to Section 3.10.

22 A. Again, it's what we were talking about where in
23 this case population matters and in which the county
24 clerk is the early voting clerk. It now excludes the
25 city. City secretary is the election administrator for

1 Q. Okay. Now, you would agree with me that
2 provisions of Section 6.06 are not underlined in this
3 provision, right?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And some provisions are underlined?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. And some provisions are struck through?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now on Page 55 at Line 9, it reads, An offense
10 under this section is a state jail felony. Did I read
11 that correctly?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And if we look at Line 20 on Page 54, it reads
14 that Section 6.06, Section 86.0105, Election Code, is
15 amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (e), and
16 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows. Did I read
17 that correctly?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So prior to Senate Bill 1, it was already a
20 state jail felony to get paid to assist voters; is that
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. So there's nothing new about that Senate
24 Bill 1?

25 A. No.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Let's flip to Section 5.04. Let me get the
3 page number for you on Defendant's 2. Page 37 of
4 State's Defendant's Exhibit 2. Let me know when you get
5 there.

6 A. I'm on Page 37. What section?

7 Q. Section 5.04.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Please read that section and tell me what your
10 understanding is of that provision.

11 A. My understanding is that, for example, I am a
12 part of this because I am an officer employee that is
13 being asked not to distribute applications for ballot by
14 mail to a person who has not otherwise requested an
15 application.

16 Q. Now, prior to 2022 when Senate Bill 1 became
17 effective, did you ever distribute unsolicited mail-in
18 ballots?

19 A. One time.

20 Q. When was that?

21 A. It was for 2020. The Elections Commission
22 Board had met and had requested that I take an item to
23 Commissioners Court, which was to send an application to
24 all 65 and older persons who are registered to vote, to
25 allow them an opportunity to try a ballot by mail

1 process.

2 Q. Okay And did you, in fact, send out the
3 unsolicited ballots?

4 A. Yes, we did. Not the ballots, the application.

5 Q. The applications?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What was the result?

8 A. We sent out -- because when Commissioners Court
9 approved and did give me the order to do this, we
10 went -- I went back to the office and we looked at all
11 65 and older. We pulled a report and removed all 65 and
12 older that already had an annual application in place.
13 So it ended up being -- I believe it was about 57,000
14 and more voters that were sent an application --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- to -- to use.

17 Q. What did you understand the authority to be for
18 you to send out unsolicited ballots -- or app -- ballot
19 applications to people 65 and older?

20 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

21 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

22 A. Ask me again.

23 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) What did you understand your
24 authority to be to send out unsolicited ballot
25 applications to people 65 and older?

1 MS. PERALES: Same objection.

2 MS. RAMIREZ: Same objection.

3 A. It was not my authority. It was Commissioners
4 Court to decide.

5 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) So the Commissioners Court
6 voted and directed you to send out unsolicited ballot
7 applications?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS. RAMIREZ: Same objection.

10 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Would you have done that
11 absent direction from the Commissioners Court?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Why not?

14 MS. RAMIREZ: Objection to form.

15 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

16 A. We've never done that.

17 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay.

18 A. It's -- we promote voting by mail. We send out
19 press releases. We try our best to let that community
20 of voters who qualify to utilize this, but we have never
21 done this.

22 Q. Do you have any idea why the Commissioners
23 Court directed you to send out unsolicited ballot
24 applications?

25 A. I don't.

1 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

2 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

3 A. As I mentioned, Elections Commission Board had
4 met and had asked me to take this item to Commissioners
5 Court to ask if, in fact, we would send that out. The
6 understanding was 2020. The community of elderly were
7 very, very susceptible to COVID and Hidalgo County had a
8 high percentage of COVID, people with COVID, and so this
9 was an act that they asked me to do and voted on it, and
10 they approved it and so I did.

11 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) So your understanding is the
12 sole reason you were asked to do this was on account of
13 the pandemic?

14 MS. RAMIREZ: Object --

15 A. I believe part of it was -- was part of the
16 pandemic, because it kept those voters that did utilize
17 the mail ballot that had never done that the opportunity
18 to vote, which is what we all want, and, yet, be safe.

19 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. You say it was partly
20 on account of the pandemic. Any other reasons that you
21 understood the elections commissioner asked you to take
22 the issue to the Commissioners Court?

23 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

24 A. I would not -- I would not make an assumption.
25 I would not know.

1 recipient of that unsolicited application may not know
2 that it's coming, right?

3 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

4 A. Again, that's why we sent a letter.

5 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. You didn't call the
6 57,000 some-odd people that you sent unsolicited ballot
7 applications to let them know a letter was coming, did
8 you?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You didn't let them know, the 57,000, that an
11 unsolicited ballot application was coming, did you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Having never done that before, did you get any
14 responses that suggested there was any confusion amongst
15 people who had not solicited the ballot applications?

16 A. No, because we sent a letter.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Which was approved by the State.

19 Q. Let me get you to turn to Page 58 of State
20 Defendant's 2.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. What is your understanding of what Section 7.04
23 changes about Texas election law?

24 A. What line is that?

25 Q. It starts on Line 26 of Page 58, and

1 unfortunately runs into about four more pages of --

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. -- up to 62.

4 A. Okay. Okay. So the first part talks about
5 vote harvesting, which means that a person is receiving
6 some sort of benefit in regards to helping a person
7 vote. And it has to do with in-person or mail ballot
8 because it's wherever there is an official ballot
9 present.

10 If there is no official ballot present,
11 then it does not apply to the -- this offense. In other
12 words, if you're talking to someone, but there's --
13 about the upcoming election, but there's no official
14 ballot, there, this section does not apply.

15 The benefit could be not just monetary,
16 which is what most people think, but employment or any
17 type of benefit that would be given in exchange for
18 providing this assistance when there is an official
19 ballot present. I'm on Line 10, on Page 60. Do you
20 want me to keep going?

21 Q. Actually, let me ask you one other question
22 before I get too far down the -- the road and I forget
23 to come back and ask about this. Have you ever
24 personally helped someone who is either elderly or
25 disabled to vote?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Have you ever had concern that a person who was
3 elderly would be more susceptible to influence if you
4 were assisting them in voting?

5 A. Well, the person I've assisted is my mother,
6 and if you knew her, you would know that -- that there
7 is no -- one time she called me all mad because somebody
8 had ran after her trying to assist her and she says, I
9 don't need anybody's help, and walked in by herself. So
10 that's my experience.

11 Q. Gotcha. Okay. With regard to vote harvesting,
12 before we -- before we go further into this, we talked
13 earlier today about politiqueras, right? Have you ever
14 heard of anybody refer to politiqueras as vote
15 harvesters?

16 MS. PERALES: Objection --

17 A. When I first started.

18 MS. PERALES: Objection; form.

19 A. Not anymore.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Go ahead.

21 A. When I first started in 2008, but not anymore.

22 Q. Okay. What do you think changed that changed
23 the way people refer to politiqueras?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know. I think -- I
25 don't know.

1 Would they be able to go on and access the application
2 on your website?

3 A. At that point they would need assistance.

4 Q. Okay. What about a person who's deaf?

5 A. They would be able to.

6 Q. Okay. What about a person who is -- well, let
7 me ask you this. As I understand it, Hidalgo -- isn't
8 Hidalgo County one of the counties that's required to
9 prevent -- to print ballots in both English and Spanish?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Are there any other languages that
12 you're required to print ballots in?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Do you, in fact, print ballots in
15 English and Spanish?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Is your website printed in both English
18 and Spanish?

19 A. Yes. You are able to translate.

20 Q. Okay. If someone were illiterate and needed
21 assistance from your office, what would you do?

22 A. We would assist them in whatever way they would
23 request.

24 Q. Are you aware of anybody in Hidalgo County
25 who's been unable to vote on account of being

1 illiterate?

2 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

3 A. Again, they ask for assistance. They know
4 about assistance, and so --

5 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Are you aware of any specific
6 example of a person being unable to vote in Hidalgo
7 County on account of being illiterate?

8 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

9 A. No, not specifically because the law allows the
10 assistant to read the ballot as well.

11 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay.

12 A. Not just read, but mark as well.

13 Q. Are you aware of any illiterate voters in
14 Hidalgo County who have successfully voted?

15 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

16 A. I would -- I would not be able to answer that.

17 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Are you aware of anyone
18 with disabilities who's been unable to vote in Hidalgo
19 County?

20 A. I am not aware of that.

21 Q. Okay. What about none native English speakers,
22 other than Spanish speakers, are you aware of anyone who
23 speaks the language other than English or Spanish who's
24 been unable to vote in Hidalgo County?

25 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

1 A. I am not aware of that.

2 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Are you aware of anyone
3 who is a speaker of the language, other than English or
4 Spanish, who has successfully voted in Hidalgo County?

5 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

6 A. I am not aware of that.

7 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Are you aware of other
8 languages being spoken in Hidalgo County other than
9 English and Spanish?

10 A. Yes.

11 MS. PERALES: Objection; vague.

12 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) What language?

13 A. Chinese. I've heard people speak Chinese,
14 Vietnamese. I've heard people speak Vietnamese.

15 Q. What -- what about Tagalog?

16 A. Yes, with the Philippines.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yes, we have a community.

19 Q. Any -- any American Indian languages?

20 A. I -- not -- other than a presentation where
21 they're performing, no. I'm not -- not in conversation
22 or heard them.

23 Q. Okay. Again, you've been the elections
24 administrator for what, going on 14 years?

25 A. Yes.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In addition to -- of all the provisions that
3 we've gone over today -- actually, let me ask this
4 globally as it relates to Senate Bill 1.

5 Can you tell me what steps your office has
6 taken to implement the provision of Senate Bill 1 since
7 it was passed?

8 A. The first and foremost important step was to
9 educate my staff. So I made sure that my staff was
10 participating in all webinars, any questions that they
11 had, we were meeting regularly, especially because the
12 forms were so late in passing.

13 I made sure that -- because the
14 application, we couldn't even get it printed until the
15 beginning of this year for ballot by mail, so we were
16 accepting applications that were old applications, but
17 they were able to write their IDs on the application,
18 and so we tried to work with our community, number one,
19 because things were not available.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. You have to understand also we were in the
22 midst of a massive mail out, which is redistricting and
23 new cards being sent out. And -- so there were quite a
24 few fires -- irons in the fire and so meeting with my
25 staff was key. Calling the State with questions, I'm

1 sure we bombarded them because that's what we would ask
2 them to do if they had a question. You have to
3 understand that changes as they interpreted the law were
4 made midway, and so that has been key as well.

5 The mandate to begin with, the carrier
6 envelopes, said we were not to touch the carrier. We
7 were not to look at the ID. We were not to remove that
8 perforated flap. Ballot board would do that, and as
9 they read the law and changed the opinion of the
10 interpretation, then we were told remove it. Start
11 contacting the voters.

12 So there were so many changes that it was a
13 constant trying to meet with my staff. So changes in my
14 office, so many. In the conference at the beginning of
15 year for TAEA, Mr. Keith Ingram said that every single
16 election form had a change, and so we did ask if we
17 could use the old forms because we could get the new
18 forms, and we were not given permission to do that. At
19 least for a primary, so we had to be ready. Were we
20 ready? Yes, we were, but not the way we should have
21 been.

22 Q. Would you contend that you complied with every
23 provision of Senate Bill 1 in operation of the March
24 primaries?

25 A. To the best of our ability --

1 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. You don't have any
2 issue with Texas taking steps to make sure that
3 noncitizens don't register to vote, do you?

4 A. I don't.

5 Q. Are you aware of any noncitizens who've
6 attempted to register to vote in Hidalgo County?

7 A. In what period of time?

8 Q. Any period of time that you've been the
9 elections administrator.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How many?

12 A. I don't have a number.

13 Q. More than one?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. More than five?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. More than ten?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How about more than 50?

20 A. I would say probably.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And we're talking when I first started, not
23 now.

24 Q. Sure. More than 75?

25 A. I don't know at that point.

1 Q. How did you come to learn that people who were
2 noncitizens were attempting to vote in Hidalgo County
3 elections?

4 A. At that time, I received a call and it -- I'd
5 probably been the administrator for a couple of years,
6 and it was an immigration official. A person was
7 getting ready to become a U.S. citizen, and their
8 practice -- his practice was calling the elections
9 office to see if this person had ever registered to
10 vote.

11 And then if, in fact, this person had
12 registered to vote, would -- did this person have voter
13 history. And the person that he was inquiring on had
14 registered to vote and had voted.

15 Q. Okay. Do you recall the person's name that you
16 spoke with?

17 A. I don't.

18 Q. Do you recall the name of the voter who had
19 unlawfully voted?

20 A. I don't.

21 Q. Did you provide any notice to any district
22 attorney concerning that unlawful registration?

23 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

24 A. At this point I called the Secretary of State's
25 office and what they instructed me to do was to send a

1 confirmation. The confirmation is sent out, and if the
2 voter does reply, we act accordingly. If the voter does
3 not reply, then within 30 days that voter is cancelled.

4 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you know what
5 straight-ticket voting is?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What is straight-ticket voting?

8 A. Straight-ticket voting is when a person was
9 able to select the entire selection of party candidates
10 during the November general and they were voting by
11 party instead of by individual candidate.

12 Q. You would agree with me that there's no
13 particular party that is allowed to do straight-ticket
14 voting under state law anymore, right?

15 A. There is. It is not allowed. That's correct.

16 Q. Would you agree with me that straight-ticket
17 voting was eliminated in Texas in 2017?

18 A. 2017, yes, sir. I believe is correct.

19 Q. In your experience as the elections
20 administrator, have you formed any opinions about the
21 effect of the eliminations straight-ticket voting in
22 Hidalgo County elections?

23 A. I have not.

24 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

25 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you know if the --

1 Q. Uh-huh.

2 A. We do not have electronic signatures on file.

3 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Have you ever signed
4 something on --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- an electronic pad?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In your experience, does your signature on an
9 electronic pad look like one you would have if you wrote
10 it out by hand?

11 A. Usually not.

12 Q. And if we're trying to use signatures to verify
13 identity, it would make sense that you would want to use
14 identical signatures, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

17 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

18 A. And -- and we do. We use the application
19 itself.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Let's move on to
21 number -- on Page 33 of State Defendant's 2, Section
22 5.02.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Go ahead and take a look at Section 5.02, which
25 runs from Line 16 of Defendant's 2 through Line 8 of

1 Page 35.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. And let me know when you're finished. I've got
4 some questions for you about it.

5 A. I'm done.

6 Q. Are you familiar with Section 5.02?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you agree with me that it amends
9 Section 84.002 of the Election Code, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. So I want to ask you a series of
12 questions about how ballot by mail worked in the March
13 22 primary. Do you understand?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is the current process for accepting
16 ballot applications after Senate Bill 1?

17 A. The application must include the voters'
18 identification that matches the identification from
19 which the voter registered to vote.

20 Q. Okay. Can you explain to the Court what that
21 means in laymen's terms?

22 A. For example, if I registered to vote at age 18
23 and now at my age, which is well over 65, I am going to
24 apply for ballot by mail. I now have two IDs, my Social
25 Security and my driver's license. I would have to match

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- little too convoluted for you.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. So let me --

5 A. And not necessarily.

6 Q. Yeah. And -- and let's -- let's so -- let's
7 talk about it this way. Do you contend that there was
8 some number of people who had their application for
9 ballot by mail rejected on account of having a
10 mismatched identification number?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Of that number who had their ballot
13 rejected by Hidalgo County Elections Administration,
14 were they given the opportunity to cure the defect?

15 A. They were given the opportunity to cure the
16 defect, yes.

17 Q. Do you know if anyone successfully navigated
18 the cure process to fix the problem?

19 A. For the application, yes.

20 Q. Do you know anyone who was unable to get an
21 application for ballot by mail on account of not having
22 matching identification numbers?

23 A. I wouldn't be able to give you a number, but in
24 speaking to the staff that handled this, they didn't
25 keep logs on this, but they did say that they returned

1 some with the appropriate forms and some were not
2 returned back corrected.

3 Q. Okay. Now, you would agree with me that even
4 if you didn't get a ballot by mail application, you
5 could still vote in person?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Do you know whether anyone who had their
8 ballot by mail application rejected received a form,
9 didn't return it, then voted in person?

10 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

11 A. I would speculate, yes. That I know for sure,
12 I cannot.

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. So as you sit here
14 today, you don't know of any specific example of anyone
15 prior to the March 22 primary who was unable to vote in
16 the March 22 primary on account of a mismatched
17 identification number?

18 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

19 A. I would not be able to speculate.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. And it would just be
21 speculation, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the cure process. I
24 believe you said that the cure process itself has been
25 helpful; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Explain to the judge what the cure
3 process is.

4 A. When a carrier envelope is determined to have
5 something wrong, because it's either the signature is
6 not there, the IDs are not there, the IDs don't match,
7 the ballot board is able -- because by know they're with
8 ballot board.

9 So the early voting ballot board is able to
10 contact the voter, and there are various ways, and let
11 them know that they can come and -- and correct the
12 error, or they still have time after the election day,
13 which is to cure, is six days after election day. So
14 they have time to come and correct the error in order
15 that that carrier envelope be accepted for processing.

16 Q. Okay. Before we go into the specifics of that,
17 let me take a step back. With regard to applications
18 for ballot by mail in your roughly 14 years as elections
19 administrator, prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1,
20 had you ever seen the application for ballot by mail
21 rejected for procedural defect?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. What kind of defects did you see prior
24 to the passage of Senate Bill 1?

25 A. The application, for example, was requested,

1 but the person did not qualify. And "did not qualify"
2 can be different reasons. Let's say that a person is
3 not 65 years of age or older, did not mark that I'm
4 disabled, and they have requested a ballot to arrive
5 within the county. Well, that would be a reject because
6 you must request the ballot to arrive at a -- at an
7 address outside the county in order to qualify if you
8 were not 65 years of age or older or disabled.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So that would be a reason for a rejection. The
11 ballot board -- I'm sorry, we're still with the
12 application. The -- the -- we receive the application.
13 The -- the processors review the information and they
14 may not be even registered voters of Hidalgo County, so
15 that would be a reject of -- of the application.

16 Q. You would agree with me that people had
17 applications for ballot by mail rejected before the
18 passage of Senate Bill 1, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And you would also agree with me that
21 Senate Bill 1 could not have been the cause of
22 rejections of applications for ballot by mail prior to
23 its passage, right?

24 A. Yes and no because the largest number of
25 rejections this time around for March 2022 had to do

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was there anything stopping any voter from
3 putting all three pieces of information on the form?

4 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

5 A. Again, I -- I -- I am not with the voter when
6 they are filling this out. My mom had a difficult time
7 writing all that information down because I'm always
8 harping on her about voter fraud -- about fraud and
9 people trying to take her ID information and, you know,
10 not answering calls that aren't in her contacts. So I
11 can only tell you what I know in first-hand knowledge
12 with -- with my own elderly mom --

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Sure.

14 A. -- that did not want to give out that
15 information.

16 Q. Okay. Can a person who requests a ballot by
17 mail application come in person to request a ballot by
18 mail application?

19 A. Before early voting begins.

20 Q. Okay. Is that true, both before and after the
21 passage of Senate Bill 1?

22 A. Let me correct that. A person can request a
23 application at any time. What they cannot do is come to
24 the office to turn in that application once early voting
25 has begun, so let's clarify that.

1 extent that they were listed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. So let's say that the voter didn't
4 respond. What -- what are the next steps for the
5 Hidalgo County elections administrator?

6 A. For this March 2022 election, once those steps
7 that you'd described and that I told you about were
8 done, that was the extent of our processes and
9 procedures with so many new things upon us. So we were
10 back to those carriers that were being returned and
11 people that were responding.

12 Q. Okay. There are other plans to expand the cure
13 process for ballot by mail applications in the future?

14 A. I think we definitely will assess when we have
15 time after these two upcoming elections to put processes
16 and procedures in place that are more exact and in sync
17 with the -- what we're used to doing, which is anything
18 and everything we can do to contact these voters --

19 Q. Okay?

20 A. -- but it -- it takes discussion and reflection
21 and time.

22 Q. Let's turn our attention back to the carrier
23 envelopes. So I want you to take the judge through the
24 process of the formation of the early voting ballot
25 board, receipt of the mail ballots, and what happens in

1 that process. So let's start with -- I know we talked
2 about this earlier, but the formation of the early
3 voting ballot board.

4 A. Uh-huh. So there are specific dates that the
5 Secretary of State recommends we set up a meeting with
6 the party chairs. And so every two years, whether there
7 was a primary or no primary, we meet with the chairs and
8 we let them know that they need to be submitting
9 different lists of -- of workers, and we tell them that
10 they need to start thinking about their ballot boards as
11 well.

12 Although these lists of ballot board
13 members don't have to be taken -- not all of them, some
14 of them do, and like I tell you, there's different
15 reasons for the different elections.

16 There are elections in -- that need to be
17 taken to Commissioners Court, the early voting ballot
18 board members, or some to the county election board and
19 some to the elections division board. I'm not sure
20 which election is what at this point. I have a chart
21 that I reference.

22 So if it's a list that must be taken, let's
23 say, to Commissioners Court, then it has to be timely
24 enough so that the court has an opportunity to review
25 the list and approve the list that has been provided by

1 the chairs. If it's -- if it's a primary election, then
2 the Commissioners Court does not have to approve, and,
3 in fact, the county election board is the one that needs
4 to review the list from the party chairs. Commissioners
5 Court is not involved.

6 So because there are so many different laws
7 that govern what election is taking place, it's
8 important that the early voting ballot board list be
9 created timely.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Once the -- the list has been approved in
12 whatever measure it is in, then we have to set a
13 schedule of meeting times, and that has to be posted 72
14 hours in advance. So we post in our office, we post on
15 our website, and so people are aware that the early
16 voting ballot board is going to meet.

17 Q. Well, what -- how do you make the decision
18 about the date when the early voting ballot board will
19 meet?

20 A. It -- it is a process that is based on the
21 number of ballots, requests, and applications, and
22 ballots that have been sent out. So if we've got 10,000
23 plus possible ballots being returned, then the law --
24 because we're over 100,000 registered voters, allows us
25 to start meeting as early as -- and I don't know if that

1 has changed, so -- but prior to Senate Bill 1.

2 As soon as the second week of early vote,
3 so we bring them in because there are various processes
4 that I can speak to if you want me to after this. So
5 they start to meet early enough, and -- and then they
6 make the determination. It's the early voting ballot
7 board, not my office, that makes the determination to
8 accept or reject a carrier envelope with the ballot that
9 is inside.

10 Q. Have you ever served as a member of a early
11 voting ballot board?

12 A. I have not.

13 Q. Have you ever witnessed an early voting ballot
14 board processing mail-in ballots?

15 A. When I started, I did, and as per the Election
16 Code, I am not involved. It is the early voting ballot
17 board, the members who are part of the ballot board that
18 make these determinations, not mine. So I have a person
19 who is in charge of and over -- and helping in
20 overseeing because the law does allow a tabulator, is in
21 a sense it's called because we have to help them.
22 But -- but basically, that's the extent of our
23 involvement.

24 Q. Does the Hidalgo County Elections
25 Administrator's office assist in any way with cure

1 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea of the number of
2 mail ballots that were cured through the process that
3 you put in place under Senate Bill 1?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. What's the number?

6 A. 95.

7 Q. Okay. So it's 95 voters that prior to Senate
8 Bill 1 would have their ballots rejected?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. To your understanding, what is the
11 method for matching identification numbers on a carrier
12 envelope at a ballot -- a mail ballot?

13 A. So the process has changed from when senate
14 bill was enacted on December the 2nd to now.

15 Q. Well -- well, let's start with the before time
16 if we can. So can you walk the Court through the
17 process for examining a mail ballot by the early voting
18 ballot board prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1?

19 A. So the -- the process is quite extensive
20 because the law requires that once the application has
21 been reviewed and deemed to be a qualified voter to vote
22 by mail, there is -- and I don't want to call it a kit,
23 but there -- there are envelopes that are created,
24 pocket envelopes that now hold that application in place
25 while the carrier envelope, which has various pieces, is

1 sent to the voter.

2 Then when that carrier envelope is
3 returned, then it's matched up with the application,
4 because prior to Senate Bill 1, what needed to be
5 matched were the signatures, the signatures on the
6 application and the signature on the back of the carrier
7 envelope.

8 Q. Now, let's talk about that for a moment. So
9 prior to Senate Bill 1, the only way to marry up an
10 application and a ballot was by looking at the
11 signature, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Do you know if Hidalgo County had ever
14 been sued over the signature match requirements prior to
15 passage of Senate Bill 1?

16 A. Not to my knowledge.

17 Q. Okay. Let me ask you, in -- in your opinion,
18 do you think the signature match is the best way to
19 match ballots and applications?

20 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

21 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

22 A. It's my opinion, not the law, but I don't
23 believe it is. I -- I always have wanted there to be a
24 new signature on file every so many years. I don't know
25 what that length of time would be, but we see the

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Do you think that that's a more
3 effective way to match ballots and applications?

4 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

5 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

6 A. It is effective. It doesn't -- this Senate
7 Bill 1 does not exclude the signature, because if there
8 is no signature on that carrier envelope, it is also
9 rejected.

10 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Uh-huh.

11 A. But it is not the bate -- primary basis for the
12 acceptance of that carrier envelope.

13 Q. Okay. Do you think that the identification
14 number system is superior to the signature match system?

15 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

16 A. As we have -- as we have worked with the
17 Secretary of State to -- to work out all the bumps and
18 bruises along the way, eventually we hope that it will
19 be a more effective way.

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay.

21 A. To begin with, it was difficult.

22 Q. Okay. Why was it difficult?

23 A. Because -- because not all IDs were in offline
24 county, which is a Hidalgo County databases. The
25 Secretary of State has the official data -- database,

1 which is called Team, and they work with DPS directly
2 and they upload to Team, but we had to work out to the
3 process of also uploading to the offline counties.

4 Q. Well, let's explain to the court what you mean
5 by offline county. So can you describe what that term
6 means, offline --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- so that the judge understands?

9 A. Yes. So as I mentioned, the official voter
10 registration database is called Team, and it is managed
11 by the Secretary of State's office. They have a whole
12 department on this.

13 So when we are an offline county, and if
14 this was before my time that I came in, we were already
15 deemed an offline county. Apparently at that time, the
16 Secretary of State's team division was not strong enough
17 to handle all 254 counties.

18 So the larger counties broke away and, in
19 fact, we pay for a voter registration vendor while Team
20 is still providing that service to the counties that are
21 with them, I believe at no cost still. I'm not sure
22 because I'm not an online county.

23 Regardless, every day we have to submit to
24 the State whatever has been processed. So every day
25 there is an upload to the State, and we work very hard

1 at synchronizing our data so that both Team and our
2 vems, is our vendor under VOTEC, databases are
3 synchronized and the same.

4 Q. Okay. So that it's clear, when you say
5 offline, what you're referring to is your offline from
6 the Teams database?

7 A. Yes. And we -- they, that are online, actually
8 go into the team portal and set up their election. We
9 also do that, but as an upload --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- when it comes to voter records.

12 Q. Now, the third-party vendor that Hidalgo County
13 uses to manage its voter registration information, does
14 that synchronize with the Team database operated by the
15 Texas Secretary of State?

16 A. We do. We utilize their software, but we are
17 the ones that have to synchronize with the state, not
18 our vendor.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. We manage our -- our software.

21 Q. So Hidalgo County has access to the Team
22 database --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- to identify voter identification numbers,
25 right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. And do you know whether the -- the
3 Team database was used, for instance, in the March 22
4 primary to verify identification numbers?

5 A. We were instructed after -- by fluke we found
6 out that Team had ID numbers that we didn't have. And
7 so we questioned the State and then they -- it took a
8 while.

9 We had to get an application, and if it
10 didn't match the number in our data system, that data
11 processor was then instructed to go into Team, upload
12 that voter registration file, and check to see if the ID
13 that the person used was in Team. It took a while for
14 our vendor and the State to synchronize in uploading all
15 those updated ID numbers into our system.

16 Q. Did -- has that synchronization happened now?

17 A. It finally did.

18 Q. Okay. So you'll have that going forward in,
19 for instance, the May 7 election?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You'll have that in the May 24 for Primary?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You'll have that in the November general
24 election?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. So that bumps so to speak that you
2 referred to earlier, won't be a bump going forward,
3 right?

4 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

5 A. We hope not.

6 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Now, with regard to the
7 identification numbers, I believe where we left off, the
8 carrier envelope is, you received that with the number
9 on the envelope; is that right?

10 A. Be -- behind a -- a security flap.

11 Q. Okay. Can you explain to the Court what --
12 what security flap you're referring to?

13 A. So the way the law was interpreted by the
14 Secretary of State's office at the beginning, was once
15 that application was approved, once that ballot was sent
16 in the carrier packet, in the carrier kit to the voter,
17 when the voter returned that envelope, they were to
18 write down their IDs on the back of the envelope, and
19 there was a perforated flap that covered this
20 information.

21 Right above where the flap sealed, they
22 still had to sign. So what we were instructed to do
23 was, we were not to remove the perforated flap. That
24 was ballot board and, you know, many times we asked the
25 question and many times we were told we were not to

1 touch it.

2 And we would say this is going to be so
3 long in -- by the time ballot boards -- because like I
4 said, we're over 100,0000, but those that are not have
5 to wait longer. Some on election day is when they bring
6 their ballot board. That would be too late --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- to do a corrective. Six days of curing
9 would still not be enough to -- to do everything that
10 needed to be done to correct a defective carrier.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So since then they changed, and I'm not sure
13 when in the process, but we finally received
14 notification that, guess what? We can now remove the
15 flap.

16 Q. Okay. So that problem's been resolved?

17 A. It's been resolved, but, again, it -- it -- we
18 now have ballots sealed in ballot boxes that we cannot
19 open because they've been sealed, and so whatever is in
20 there that needs corrective measures now has to wait
21 until the ballot board met.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. HUDSON: Can we go off the record for
24 five minutes?

25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at

1 Q. Go ahead -- go ahead and remove the adhesive
2 and seal that one.

3 A. Is it the top part here? There you go.

4 Q. Go ahead and seal that.

5 A. (Witness complied.)

6 Q. Now, do you see the tab there that you can pull
7 to open the envelope?

8 A. Here (indicating)?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. Okay. You want me to --

11 Q. You don't have to pull it all the way, just go
12 ahead and start it. Now -- all right. So that opens
13 the envelope. Now, what you're saying, if I understand,
14 is there's a flap that pulls like that, but just shows
15 information about the voter on it, right?

16 A. And it's below.

17 Q. And it doesn't actually open the envelope, it
18 just shows the information?

19 A. Exactly. It keeps the envelope sealed, but it
20 shows the information.

21 Q. Perfect. Okay. So -- and the issue that you
22 have right now is you're being told by the Secretary of
23 State's office not to remove the peel away portion that
24 identifies the voter and advance to the early voting
25 ballot board meeting?

1 A. And as -- as I hope I made it clear, that was
2 our first instruction.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Now we've been instructed to remove the seal
5 and to begin the process of communicating with the voter
6 sooner than not.

7 Q. Okay. So does that solve the problem that you
8 initially had with the delay?

9 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

10 A. It may solve that problem, but once again, it
11 creates unfunded mandates because we receive
12 notification as late as day before where now we can
13 drive to the voter's house. So just an example of how
14 as the -- we learn about Senate Bill 1, there are
15 changes, but they come about so quickly, and -- and I
16 feel that we're not as prepared as we've been --

17 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Uh-huh.

18 A. -- after other legislative ses -- sessions that
19 have created change.

20 Q. Now, you would agree with me that everybody on
21 the Hidalgo County Commissioners Board wants every voter
22 who wants to vote to vote, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

25 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) So you would anticipate, and

1 to the extent that you need funding, to make sure that
2 voters are able to vote, they're probably going to give
3 it to you, right?

4 MS. RAMIREZ: Same objection.

5 A. Well, I would hope so.

6 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) I would hope so too. Have --
7 have you ever been in a situation where you've told the
8 County Commissioners Office that you needed money for
9 voters and they told you they're just not going to give
10 it to you?

11 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

12 A. No, but there is a process and I think that's
13 something that's being left out. If I need money in my
14 fund, it's not like the private sector where you just
15 call and transfer money. It is a process. We have to
16 go through the budget and then the auditors and then
17 create an agenda item and then wait till there's a
18 meeting of Commissioners Court, which is every other
19 week, and then present the item, which, of course, will
20 be accepted, but it doesn't happen right when we need
21 it. So being prepared and having enough funding is when
22 I can answer you without a shadow of a doubt things are
23 better.

24 Q. Between the March 22 primary and the upcoming
25 May 7 Primary, would you agree with me that things have

1 already started to get better for you?

2 A. They have started, but with this change from
3 the day before, we need vehicles. I need personnel. We
4 need more lines. It's -- it's a -- it's a challenge.

5 Q. Now, once the early voting ballot board gets
6 the envelope, have you already verified the information
7 and identification numbers from the voters before it
8 goes to EVBBA?

9 A. Yes, but according to Senate Bill 1, those
10 numbers must be verified once again.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It's not just taken for granted that they were
13 approved and sent to carrier envelope with a ballot.
14 They have to be verified once again.

15 Q. Okay. Did you have anybody that you're aware
16 of who voted in Hidalgo County who was verified for an
17 application for ballot by mail, receive their ballot,
18 submitted their ballot, and then the identification was
19 deemed to be incorrect?

20 A. I don't have that knowledge. I'm -- because
21 I'm not there with the early voting ballot board.

22 Q. Okay. So as you sit here today, you don't have
23 any examples of anyone who received an application for
24 ballot by mail later having their ballot rejected on
25 account of an identification mismatch?

1 there. My question is this. You said that there is a
2 subsequent verification of the ID number on the flap of
3 the carrier envelope with the ballot by the early voting
4 ballot board, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Let's assume the early voting ballot board
7 rejects an application because of an identification
8 number mismatch?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Where does that ballot go?

11 A. It goes back to my office, and the clerk that
12 handles mail ballots would then verify, again, go into
13 the system, go into Team and see if there hasn't been an
14 update and see if there hasn't been a change, in
15 addition of the ID.

16 So it goes back to the office, meanwhile
17 though, the early voting ballot board is calling and
18 trying to reach the voter himself or herself. It goes
19 back to my office once they have communicated with the
20 voter and they have the time now to cure.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Let me make that clear, because once it's with
23 ballot board, ballot board takes over. Re -- they even
24 created an e-mail account to where they could e-mail
25 those that had written an e-mail.

1 Q. Okay. So have -- I guess I want to make sure I
2 got this timeline correct. You're saying the early
3 voting ballot boards got the ballot, they're trying to
4 reach the voter. How does the information get to your
5 clerk while it's still in the possession of the early
6 voting ballot board?

7 A. Once they -- and -- and the one that goes
8 back -- the -- the information and the carrier that goes
9 back to my office is the one to be cured, so the
10 information goes back via a report.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Because the ballot board is noting these calls,
13 information that they're doing on log reports.

14 Q. And this is the process that resulted in 95
15 voters being able to cure their ballots?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. They were more, but 95 came to cure.

19 Q. Okay. Do you know if there were any ballots
20 that were ultimately rejected on account of
21 identification mismatch?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you know the number of those?

24 A. I -- I can't right now. I -- I got so many
25 numbers, but there were.

1 Q. Do you know if there's a way for voters to go
2 and correct their identification numbers with the
3 Secretary of State's Team database?

4 A. Yes, the ballot tracker.

5 Q. Explain to the Court what the ballot tracker
6 is.

7 A. You know, being an offline county I'm still
8 learning because the ballot tracker took quite a while
9 to go up. And so as the process started, is we were
10 already in the midst of an election. There was no
11 ballot tracker.

12 So it was not feasible for us to let the
13 community know there was a ballot tracker when if they
14 attempted to go in, it wasn't functioning.

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. When it finally did go up, I still have to
17 clarify with the Secretary of State's office the correct
18 process. First of all, it's not user friendly. I know
19 because I was with my mom and we were trying it out
20 to -- and it was difficult. It was difficult to follow.

21 And then with my mom, she has Social
22 Security, but she doesn't have a driver's license. So
23 it requires both, and my mom doesn't have a driver's
24 license on file, and she registered with her Social
25 Security and it wouldn't let us continue.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So there are those issues that when we have
3 time, we will let the State know so that they will check
4 these things out. So the ballot tracker is supposed to
5 be something so wonderful where when I communicate with
6 that voter you're missing this number or that number,
7 they should be able to go on, and they should be able to
8 add it on to the ballot tracker, and it should then
9 notify us --

10 And I'm not exactly sure because I've --
11 I've heard different things. We're supposed to get an
12 e-mail. We didn't get an e-mail. We only had two
13 people correct via ballot tracker, and it was a report
14 that we had to go into Team to pull out. So it was --
15 we checked daily. We would check daily because there
16 was no notification, so there are those dark areas that
17 we need to learn.

18 Q. Are there ways other than ballot tracker for
19 voters in Hidalgo County to correct their identification
20 numbers in the Team database?

21 A. That's the way they're -- they're -- they're
22 supposed to be able to.

23 Q. Okay. Right. My question is a little bit
24 different. I'm asking, other than the ballot tracker,
25 are you aware of any other alternative ways to correct

1 identification numbers in the Team database?

2 A. No. It would only be by coming to the office
3 or by mail because when we cannot reach them by phone or
4 e-mail, then a form, prescribed by the State, is sent to
5 them.

6 Q. Right. And that's where I'm getting at. So
7 you would agree with me that in addition to the ballot
8 tracker, a voter could also correct their application
9 numbers by mail?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And a voter could also correct their
12 identification numbers in person?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So there's three ways then for a voter to
15 correct their identifications numbers, to the extent
16 that it's even necessary?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea of -- can we get
19 you to flip to Page 43 of Defendant's 2?

20 A. 43. What line?

21 Q. Line 8.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. You see where it says Section 5.12?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It says Section 5.12, Subchapter B, Chapter 87,

1 87.0411 --

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. -- to read as follows. Did I read that
4 correctly?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then it goes on, Line 18, Section 87.0411,
7 Opportunity to Correct Defect, Earl Voting Ballot Board.
8 Did I read that correctly?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that the cure period relating to the early
11 voting ballot board that you've been discussing with me
12 this afternoon?

13 A. It -- it is during the early voting. It's the
14 first part that I talked to you about. When ballot
15 board is meeting, they themselves are contacting the
16 voter. So the cure period is actually after election
17 day. So this is the first part.

18 Q. Okay. All right.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Talk to me about poll watchers. Prior to
21 passage of Senate Bill 1, what was the process in
22 Hidalgo County for line poll watchers to watch polls?

23 A. The poll watcher was to present himself or
24 herself at the polling location to the judge and turn
25 over the Certificate of Appointment that would be signed

1 by the candidate, the group, the campaign treasurer,
2 whomever was appointing this person to be a poll
3 watcher, and so they would turn that into the -- to the
4 judge and be allowed to be a poll watcher at that
5 polling location.

6 Q. Okay. Did you ever have issues that you're
7 aware of with poll watchers prior to the passage of
8 Senate Bill 1?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What issues did you the witness poll watchers
11 prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1?

12 A. And, again, it's not my witness, but it is a
13 complaint, or a call, mainly on intimidation. Mainly on
14 making a voter feel afraid or intimidated or made fun
15 of.

16 Q. Can you give me any examples that you recall?

17 A. Yes. I think I mentioned this already where in
18 2020, a poll watcher demanded to see the ID of a -- of a
19 voter because the person did not look like they were a
20 U.S. citizen. We had a group outside one of the
21 locations that as the curbside voting car drove up, they
22 would go to the window and take pictures of the people
23 inside, take pictures of the person driving, and take
24 pictures of the license plate.

25 Q. Did you get any specifics about names or

1 identities of people involved in either of those
2 incidents?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. Were those calls made directly to you?

5 A. The judge at each poll location is directed to
6 handle the situation, and if the judge needs assistance,
7 then that's when they call on us, but each judge is
8 trained to handle the situations at their poll location.

9 Q. To your knowledge, did the election judge in
10 both of the locations that you've just described handle
11 the situation so to speak?

12 A. They really did try.

13 Q. Well, so did they not succeed?

14 A. Well, when a -- when a -- when a voter drives
15 away being told that they don't look like a U.S.
16 citizen, how do you correct that situation? Oh, you do
17 look like one. How do you correct it? Talking to the
18 poll watcher, yes.

19 Q. Right. I guess my question is, let -- let me
20 ask it like this. Do you know if the election judge and
21 the State -- in the circumstance that you just described
22 of someone being made to feel like they weren't a U.S.
23 citizen, do you know if the election judge removed the
24 poll watcher who incited that incident?

25 A. Our judges are always instructed to take a poll

1 watcher or a voter or whomever is not acting
2 accordingly, professionally, respectfully, to take them
3 to one side to talk to them. But in 2022, I mentioned
4 to you that there was like a group that had organized,
5 and so some left and others would come.

6 Q. Sure. I -- I -- I want -- I want to finish
7 drilling down though on the example that you're talking
8 about. So you say there was a circumstance prior, you
9 know, in 2020 where someone was asked if they were a
10 U.S. citizen at the polls and --

11 A. They didn't look like a U.S. citizen and what
12 were they doing voting.

13 Q. Okay. Did you -- did you personally speak to
14 the election judge who handled that situation?

15 A. The judge called me directly.

16 Q. Who's -- who's -- --

17 A. That's how I have knowledge --

18 Q. -- the election judge?

19 A. Linda Rosales.

20 Q. Okay. How did Ms. Rosales handle that
21 situation?

22 A. She did take the poll watcher to one side and
23 asked the poll watcher to please not -- at that time
24 before Senate Bill 1, the poll watchers were not
25 supposed to be talking to the clerks or to the voters.

1 The -- the person, the poll watcher was before Senate
2 Bill 1, was only supposed to be observing and if there
3 was a need to speak to anyone, it was supposed to be to
4 the judge, and so those were the instructions given by
5 the judge to that poll watcher.

6 Q. Do you know the race of the poll watcher?

7 A. I'm sorry?

8 Q. Do you know the race of the poll watcher?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Ms. Rosales didn't tell you?

11 A. No. I -- I didn't think that mattered as far
12 as race.

13 Q. Okay. Well, what about the race of the voter?

14 A. Well, I don't know. I didn't see the voter,
15 but according to the poll watcher, the person didn't
16 look like a U.S. citizen. What the poll watcher was
17 thinking would -- your guesses would be as good as mine.
18 It's very disrespectful. That I can say.

19 Q. So did Ms. Rosales have that poll watcher
20 removed?

21 A. No. I think Mrs. Rosales talked to the poll
22 watcher.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know if there were any additional
24 incidents beyond that one?

25 A. As far as taking pictures, it was like ongoing,

1 and it was very difficult to monitor because
2 Mrs. Rosales is supposed to be inside being the judge
3 and not outside taking care of issues like this 24/7, so
4 it was difficult. 2020 was difficult in that sense.

5 Q. Okay. Was Ms. Rosales also the judge who told
6 you about the incident with people taking pictures?

7 A. It was the same time, yes.

8 Q. Okay. Do you know what polling location this
9 was?

10 A. Yes. Our main early voting polling location.

11 Q. And where is that?

12 A. At -- on Closner near our main office.

13 Q. Okay. Aside from those two incidents, were
14 there any others that you can think of where poll
15 watchers were allegedly disrupting activities at polling
16 places?

17 A. There was one -- I'm not sure -- it was in the
18 west where one poll watcher was being -- like yelling
19 and -- and being disruptive in like trying to cause an
20 altercation of some sort, and I do believe the judge
21 removed that poll watcher. I'm not exactly sure, but I
22 also got that call and --

23 Q. Do you recall --

24 A. -- we always try to -- she didn't know what to
25 do because the -- the poll watcher was screaming and

1 yelling and talking to people in a disrespectful manner.

2 Q. Do you recall that judge's name?

3 A. I don't know right now, no.

4 Q. Was that also in 2020?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Aside from the three incidents that you've just
7 described in 2020, do you know of any incidents
8 predating those three incidents involving poll watchers?

9 A. In 2016, you know, it was like the same kind of
10 getting organized and getting a group of people
11 together, and they were more following the law as far as
12 not addressing the -- the voter or addressing the clerk,
13 but writing things down. And -- and I did receive those
14 and they were sent to the -- they were sent to the
15 Secretary of State's office. They were -- I don't know
16 how many, but they were quite a few.

17 Q. Are poll watchers allowed to write things down
18 that they witness?

19 A. I'm sorry?

20 Q. Are poll watchers allowed to write things down
21 that they witness?

22 A. Of course.

23 Q. Okay. Why would you turn them in for?

24 A. Because they -- they were complaints and as --
25 yeah.

1 the training helped, right, because things went well.

2 Q. Okay. Did you get reports of any incidents
3 that had to be remedied by any of your election judges?

4 A. I didn't.

5 Q. Okay. Let me get you to turn to Page 51 --
6 actually, excuse me, 50.

7 A. 50?

8 Q. Yeah. Defendant's 2.

9 A. What -- what number? What line?

10 Q. Down on Line 18.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Do you see Article 6, Assistance of Voters?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, prior to the passage of Senate Bill 1, you
15 would agree with me that people who provide assistance
16 to voters had to fill out an oath, right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What was your understanding of what the oath
19 required?

20 A. As far as Senate Bill 1 requirement or as far
21 as the oath of assistance?

22 Q. As far as the oath of assistance, prior to the
23 passage of Senate Bill 1.

24 A. Prior to the passage, the -- the assistant
25 would -- would come and the voter would let us know that

1 they were requiring assistance, one of two choices would
2 be made. Either my poll workers would assist or the
3 voter had his or her own assistant, and at that point,
4 the voter would be checked in. Once the voter was
5 checked in, the assistant would be called.

6 They would sign in because on the -- it's
7 called a combination form where they -- they sign in
8 electronically and then they sign manually. So if I
9 sign in on line three, the -- my assistant signs on line
10 three, if it's not one of my clerks. So at that point,
11 the assistant repeats -- it says an oath, and then is
12 directed to go to the voting equipment with the voter.

13 Q. Now, I want to make sure I heard correctly
14 because sometimes I'm hard of hearing. Did you say a
15 combination or an accomodation?

16 A. It's called a combination form, and it's the
17 manual signature of the voter that just checked in
18 electronically.

19 Q. Okay. Now, did you ever have anyone who
20 declined to assist a voter at a polling location that
21 you're aware of in your 14 years as elec -- elections
22 administrator because of the requirement to sign an
23 oath?

24 A. Decline?

25 Q. Prior -- yeah, prior to the passage of Senate

1 District Attorney's office concerning Senate Bill 1?

2 MS. RAMIREZ: Outside, I -- I mean, I'm
3 going to have to object, but to the extent that you know
4 you had conversations outside of your communications
5 with counsel.

6 THE WITNESS: Outside of counsel?

7 MS. RAMIREZ: Yeah.

8 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Yeah. And here's what I'm
9 getting at, and I will see if I can make it more plain.
10 Has anybody from the Harris County -- not Harris County.

11 MS. PERALES: Yeah. Keep going with that.

12 MR. HUDSON: Yeah.

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Hidalgo County attorney's
14 office contacted you as part of an investigation into
15 any election crime?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Have you spoken to anybody at the
18 Secretary of State's office -- the Texas Secretary of
19 State's office about Senate Bill 1?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who?

22 A. Christina Adkins, Keith Ingram. As part of the
23 advisory committee. We talk about it all.

24 Q. Okay. Anyone else?

25 A. As far as the specifics like ballot tracker,

1 voter registration, then it would be the director of
2 their voter registration team, and I -- I think it's
3 Christy Hart.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I believe that, but she's one of the directors.

6 Q. Anyone else?

7 A. As far as Team and the -- the new mandates and
8 uploading information and all that, some of the
9 attorneys like Chuck Pinney. Any other attorney that I
10 have spoken to? I think that's the extent.

11 Q. Okay. Has anybody threatened to prosecute you
12 for violating any provisions of Senate Bill 1?

13 A. I'm sorry?

14 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

15 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Has anyone threatened to
16 prosecute you for violating any provisions in Senate
17 Bill 1?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. Are you worried about being prosecuted
20 for violating any provisions of Senate Bill 1?

21 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

22 MS. PERALES: Objection.

23 A. I am not violating any provisions of Senate
24 Bill 1.

25 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) No, I -- I understood.

1 A. It is -- it is --

2 Q. I'm just asking in general --

3 A. It is -- it is --

4 Q. -- are you worried?

5 A. It is a worry. It -- it's written. It's -- I
6 am in charge of a department of 27 permanent employees
7 and hundreds and hundreds of poll workers, so it is a
8 worry.

9 Q. It hasn't stopped you from doing your job,
10 right?

11 A. I am obligated and mandated to do my job and I
12 will.

13 Q. Okay. You're not going to quit over it, right?

14 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

15 A. I would not quit over this, no.

16 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Sure. I think we're up to
17 four. I'll hand you what I'm going to mark as State's
18 Defendant's 4.

19 (Exhibit 4 marked.)

20 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) I'll represent to you that's a
21 copy of the Secretary -- Texas Secretary of State
22 Elections Divisions Cancellation of Ballot By Mail
23 Guidance dated 2/10/22. Have you ever seen that
24 document before?

25 A. I will tell you that on the day that they

1 watcher requirements under House Bill 3107, Senate Bill
2 1, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Have you had an opportunity to take a look at
5 this advisory?

6 A. Oh, yes.

7 Q. Do you disagree with any of the guidance that's
8 provided in advisory 22-09?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Same question, but as to Advisory 22-08.

11 A. No. I don't disagree.

12 Q. In fact, is there any advice or guidance
13 currently presented by the -- or currently promulgated
14 by the Texas Secretary State's office that you disagree
15 with?

16 A. No.

17 Q. I'm handing you what I'm going to mark as State
18 Defendant's 9. This is Election Advisory No. 22-12. Do
19 you see that?

20 (Exhibit 9 marked.)

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) And on the regarding line, it
23 reads, Additional procedures regarding correction of
24 defects on the application for ballot by mail or carrier
25 envelope. Do you see that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Now, this was issued on February 11, '22. Do
3 you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is this the corrected guidance that you're
6 referring to earlier today about the --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- carrier flap?

9 A. I'm sure.

10 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea how many attorneys
11 work in the Elections Division over at the Secretary of
12 State's office?

13 A. No. They keep changing and adding, so I don't
14 know right now.

15 Q. Anybody over at the Secretary of State's office
16 use the term unfunded mandate for their office?

17 A. That they've use unfunded mandates? Oh, yes.
18 No, I don't know, but I know that there are also
19 unfunded mandates there.

20 Q. I'm going to hand you what I'm marking as State
21 Defendant's 10. And I'll just represent to you that
22 this is a list of all of the current, at least through
23 April 3 of '22, advisories that have been issued by the
24 Texas Secretary of State's office. Now, do you know
25 when Senate Bill 1 was signed into law?

1 (Exhibit 10 marked.)

2 A. Second legislative session?

3 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) I'll -- I'll do you one
4 better. Can you go ahead and grab Defendant's 2 for me?

5 A. (Witness complied.)

6 Q. Go ahead and flip to the back page. Do you
7 see, Approved, down at the bottom left-hand corner?

8 A. September 7th, '21.

9 Q. Okay. And underneath that, do you recognize
10 that signature? It's a pretty famous one.

11 A. Secretary of State.

12 Q. Okay. And to the left -- to the left of that,
13 do you see that signature?

14 A. Yes, our governor.

15 Q. Okay. So would you agree with me that
16 advisories issued after September 7 of '21 relate to
17 Senate Bill 1?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So let's give it a count. On Page 2 of
20 State Defendant's 10, if we go back to the middle of the
21 page, do you see where it says September 9, 2021?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Let's count. Going up from September 9
24 up, we got one, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
25 eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen,

1 fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty,
2 twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four,
3 twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight,
4 twenty-nine. Thirty advisories and memos, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. All of that had to be done after the
7 passage of Senate Bill 1. Would you agree?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. That's in addition to webinars that the
10 Secretary of State's office has put out, right?

11 A. No. No. Going against that, it's true.

12 Q. Okay. And that's in addition to forms that had
13 to be modified by the Secretary of State's office?

14 A. We were very much a part of.

15 Q. Would you agree with me that the number of
16 advisories reflects ongoing advice and guidance from the
17 Secretary of State's office about the implementation of
18 Senate Bill 1?

19 A. Yes, quite a bit of information in a very short
20 time.

21 Q. Do you think that this list that I just showed
22 you, State Defendant's 10, represents the end of the
23 advisories concerning Senate Bill 1?

24 A. No at all.

25 Q. It's an ongoing process, right?

1 A. Always.

2 Q. Okay. So you anticipate that we would see
3 additional changes based on issues that arise under
4 Senate Bill 1, right?

5 A. Yes. I told you about the one we just received
6 the day before.

7 Q. Okay. In fact, if we look back at the back
8 page of Senate Bill 1, we see that this list itself is
9 13 pages long and dates back to January 2, 2014, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you what I'm going to
12 mark has State Defendant's 11. Have you ever seen that
13 document before?

14 (Exhibit 11 marked.)

15 A. Yes. And, again, my division manager, too, was
16 on this webinar. I was not able to be.

17 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. So somebody from your
18 office is trained on early voting ballot boards?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to dispute any of
21 the -- the guidance or advise provided by this webinar
22 referenced in State Defendant's 11?

23 A. Not at all.

24 Q. Let me ask you, do you like Keith Ingram?

25 A. Yes.

1 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

2 A. No.

3 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. 14 years, right?

4 A. Almost.

5 Q. Almost.

6 A. Not quite.

7 Q. I'm going to hand you what I'm going to mark as
8 Defendant's 16. Go ahead and take a look at this and
9 let me know when you're ready to discuss.

10 (Exhibit 16 marked.)

11 A. Yes. It's important to look at the date.

12 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Uh-huh.

13 A. I had never seen this article. Do you know
14 where the case was heard?

15 Q. I believe it covers it in the article.

16 A. Okay. I skimmed it.

17 Q. Okay. So I asked you earlier today if you knew
18 what a politiquera was, right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If you flip over to Page 2, fourth paragraph --
21 or excuse me, third paragraph reads, They're called
22 politiqueras, a word unique to the border that means
23 campaign worker. It's a time-honored tradition down in
24 the land of grapefruit orchards and Border Patrol
25 checkpoints. If a local candidate needs dependable

1 votes, he or she goes to a politiquera. Did I read that
2 correctly?

3 A. You read that correctly.

4 Q. Is that your understanding?

5 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

6 A. Not -- not necessarily.

7 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. Do you know who Mike
8 Carrera is?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Who is Mike Carrera?

11 A. Mike Carrera is a campaign manager, I guess is
12 what you would call, that is hired by candidates to help
13 during an election process.

14 Q. Okay. How does he help as part of the election
15 process to your knowledge?

16 A. Well, I -- I don't know.

17 Q. Do you know if Mr. Carrera makes it his
18 business to hire politiqueras for candidates in the Rio
19 Grande Valley?

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. Okay. On Page 5 of 16, top paragraph, see
22 where it says, Longtime?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Longtime Valley political strategist Mike
25 Carrera says he's glad that prosecutors are weeding out

1 unscrupulous politiqueras, but that doesn't mean they're
2 all bad. Carrera says the ones he hires are paid to
3 know the precinct's voting habits, nothing more. Did I
4 read that correctly?

5 A. Yes. You did.

6 Q. Okay. Does it surprise you to learn that
7 Mr. Carrera told national public radio that he hires
8 politiqueras to help with campaigns in the valley?

9 A. No.

10 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

11 A. It doesn't surprise me. Again, it's 2015, so
12 it's seven years ago.

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. If you go back to
14 Page 2 of 16 for me. Do you see the second photograph?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It says, A new FBI anti-corruption task force
17 is trying to clean up the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.
18 According to the Justice Department in 2013, more public
19 officials were convicted for corruption in South Texas
20 than in any other region of the country. One of the
21 practices the task force -- task force is looking
22 into -- looking at is vote stealing. Did I read that
23 correctly?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you have any reason to disagree with this

1 know whether the decision for the trial court was
2 appealed?

3 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

4 A. I believe Mr. Salinas who was the incumbent
5 appealed and it went wherever it goes, and it didn't go
6 through, so Mr. Ocana's continued as mayor.

7 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay. But as you sit here,
8 you don't know what the trial court judge did after two
9 weeks of testimony?

10 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

11 A. I -- I do know that there was no election that
12 took place after this trial.

13 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Okay.

14 A. That's what I know.

15 Q. I mean, just as a voter, you're sa -- you're a
16 voter, too, right?

17 A. Not in Mission, but, yes, I am a voter.

18 Q. You're a voter in Hidalgo County?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would it shock you if you read a news article
21 that said an election had been tossed out?

22 MS. RAMIREZ: Object to form.

23 A. Again, I'm not going to tell you that our media
24 gets it right 100 percent of the time because I have
25 calls -- direct calls to producers all the time.

1 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) What do you mean you have
2 direct calls?

3 A. Well, sometimes we have to correct the
4 information given by the news media. Just because
5 it's -- it's presented by the media, it doesn't make it
6 a true fact.

7 Q. Well, I will -- I will tell you -- I -- I will
8 grant you this. I got accused in the newspaper of
9 almost being thrown in jail by a judge about a month
10 ago, and I can tell you that the article was incorrect.

11 A. There you go.

12 Q. So I'm just trying to verify with you where you
13 are on the story.

14 A. Yes. No. There was no new election or special
15 election or anything thrown out. Whatever took place,
16 wherever it took place, it didn't change the outcome,
17 however many court cases it took.

18 Q. Gotcha.

19 MR. HUDSON: If we can go off the record
20 for about five minutes?

21 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record at 3:59
22 p.m.

23 (Break taken.)

24 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record at
25 4:21 p.m.

1 described, have you seen any improvement amongst voters
2 and the process for registering?

3 A. Improvement? I think things have continued as
4 usual.

5 Q. Well, let me see if I can ask it like this.
6 Did you get phone calls before the March 22 primary from
7 voters about how the process works now?

8 A. For registering to vote?

9 Q. Yes?

10 A. No.

11 Q. So obviously if you weren't getting calls
12 before, you're not really getting calls now?

13 A. No.

14 MR. WHITE: Objection; form.

15 Q. (BY MR. HUDSON) Did you get any calls from
16 voters about any of the other election procedures in
17 advance of the March 22 primary?

18 A. No. I -- I don't believe there was enough time
19 to have voters question what was happening or
20 understanding it, so, no.

21 Q. Are you seeing any questions from voters now
22 about the upcoming election?

23 A. Mainly mail ballot. And, again, we don't have
24 a huge volume of calls, on average of 25 to 30 a day,
25 mostly related right now to mail ballot.

1 understand are coming out about the identification?

2 A. First of all, it's a new application and it's
3 on our website, but we've discussed the fact that no
4 everyone was access, so we definitely recommend sending
5 them the application if they so request.

6 And we have now, are including -- and
7 approved by the Secretary of State -- a colored, very
8 colorful, very simple, easy to read insert that'll say,
9 Don't forget, you know, that you have to have your IDs
10 and we recommend using both IDs if they do have a Social
11 Security and a Texas driver's license.

12 So we have provided an insert. We're doing
13 the same thing with the carrier, and those two things we
14 didn't do before.

15 Q. So you're taking steps to alleviate issues that
16 you felt you had with the March 22 primary?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When do you think you'll find out whether those
19 steps you've taken have been effective?

20 A. Hopefully when the application comes in
21 correctly filled out without any need to reject or
22 correct.

23 Q. Okay. Have I been courteous to you today?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Anything I haven't asked you that you think I

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) (
PLAINTIFF,) (CASE No.
) (5:21-cv-1085-XR
VS.) (
) (
THE STATE OF TEXAS, ET) (
AL.,) (
DEFENDANTS.) (

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
DEPOSITION OF YVONNE RAMON
APRIL 21, 2022

I, Maribel Hernandez, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify to the following:

That the witness, YVONNE RAMON, was duly sworn by the office and that the transcript of the oral deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witness;

I further certify that pursuant to FRCP Rule 30(f)(1) that the signature of the deponent:

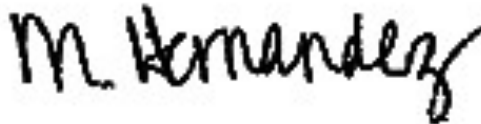
 X was requested by the deponent or a party before the completion of the deposition and that the signature is to be before any notary public and returned within 30 days from date of receipt of the transcript. If returned, the attached Changes and Signature Page contains any changes and the reasons therefor;

 was not requested by the deponent or

1 a party before the completion of the deposition.

2 I further certify that I am neither
3 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
4 parties or attorney in the action in which this
5 proceeding was taken, and further that I am not
6 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
7 the action.

8 Certified to by me this _____ day of
9 _____, 2022.

10
11
12 

13 _____
14 MARIBEL HERNANDEZ, Texas CSR 10885
15 Expiration Date: 01/31/2023
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